




**Haight riot**  
— from  
tear gas  
to carnations  
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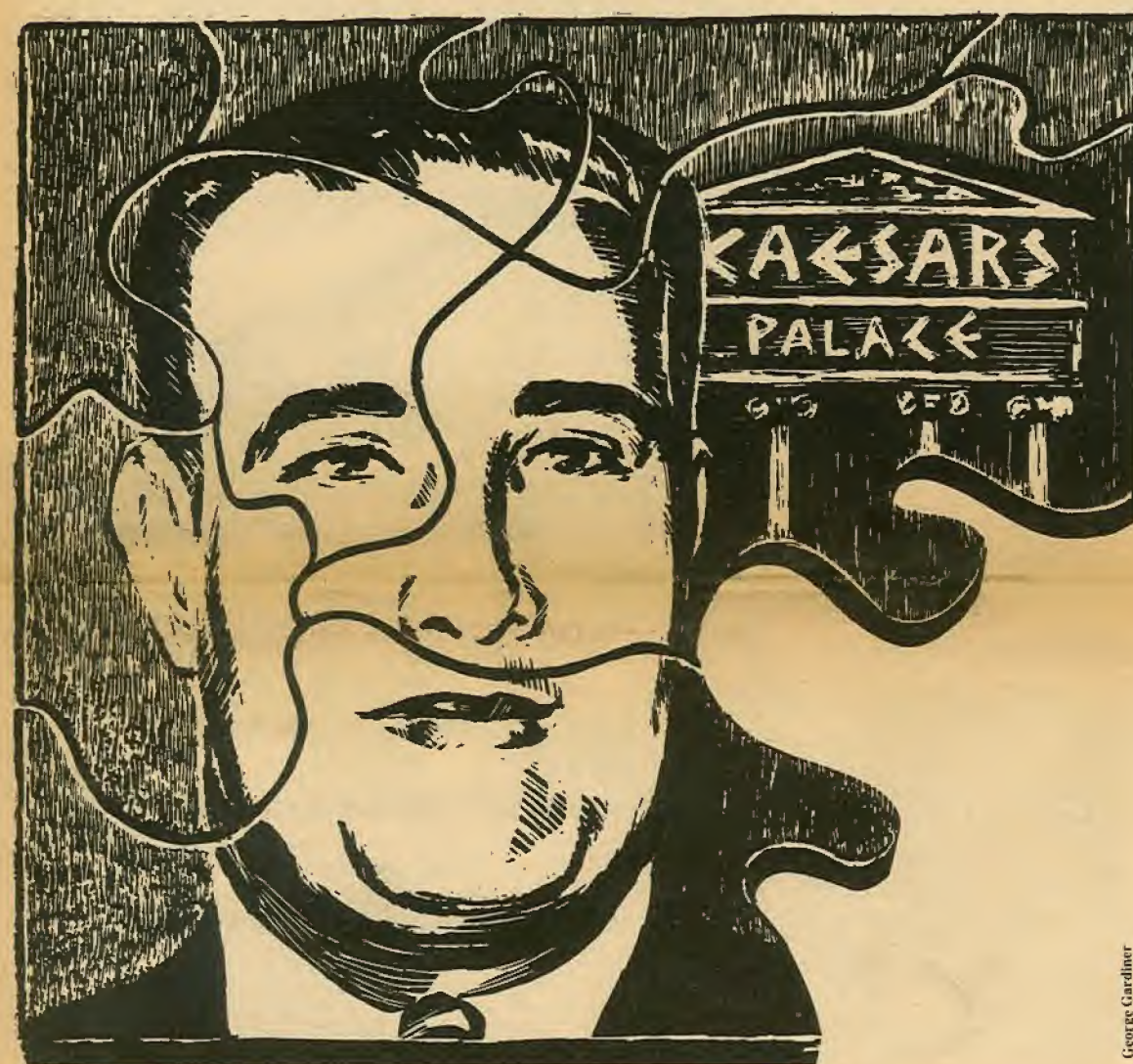
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## The gambling fever of Truax



George Gardner

Fur coats and thousands  
handed out to girls,  
private jet zips him home  
— this was ABAG aide's  
double life in Las Vegas

By Ivan Sharpe  
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REPORTER Ivan Sharpe spent three days in Las Vegas and several days in the Bay Area piecing together this unrevealed story of the fascinating double life of ABAG aide Tom Truax.

Certain names are withheld for obvious reasons of libel and to save informants embarrassment — or even possibly being fired.

Smilingly nodding at the sharp-faced dealers as he sat down at the baccarat table in Las Vegas' elegant Caesars Palace, Troy Thompson looked like a farmer up from the country for his first big fling.

"He would come strolling wearing a \$10 pair of shoes, a J.C. Penney white shirt and pull out \$20,000 as if it were nothing," a dealer observed.

Reticent, quiet-spoken Thompson, in fact, never looked like a high roller.

If he lost \$50,000 or so, he would give a weak grin, shrug and move away. If he won many thou-

sands -- and he often did -- he was equally placid. Never frivolous, rarely seeming happy.

He was an enigma, even in plastic, shadowy Las Vegas where oddballs are as common as one-arm bandits.

The truth was that the young, muscular six-footer was in love with baccarat, a fast, high-stake game popular in European casinos as chemin-de-fer or chemmy.

Playing baccarat was a compulsion. Winning or losing was a deep fever; the thousands of dollars involved was incidental.

### Lots of money

Yet Troy Thompson had to have money to indulge his obsession. Lots of it.

And so, on Sunday nights, he would reluctantly fly back to Berkeley to his other life, to wrestle with regional problems of sewage disposal, bay fill and mass transit.

Here he reverted back to his real name of Thomas Nelson Truax, the 26-year-old trusted and well-liked No. 2 man for the ambitious Association of Bay Area Governments.

He has been missing since Feb. 8 when investigators discovered \$511,000 in federal grants had never made it into official ABAG accounts. Instead they went into

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## 'The newspaper strike is ended'

By our correspondent

Newspaper executives, union officials and newsmen sat nervously eyeing the clock, fiddling with television cameras, pacing across the deep red carpet of Mayor Joseph Alioto's outer office. It was Sunday, Feb. 25 and, after 52 days, it finally would end — that very evening.

Or would it? The scheduled time of announcement came — 5:30 p.m. — and still no word. Then 6, 6:30, 6:45. Suddenly, the mayor burst out of his inner office.

"I am very happy to announce," he told his anxious audience, "that the newspaper strike is ended."

Labor-management foes suddenly turned friends. Together, they'd move immediately for resumption of publication; they'd get the papers on the streets again by Wednesday.

But when it ended that evening in the mayor's office, it ended with one of the most significant strike settlements in years, one that as-

ures the public of uninterrupted daily newspaper production for at least three years.

Unions, seeking the unity necessary for maximum bargaining power, had proposed to renegotiate their contracts and extend them to a common expiration date.

The newspapers, seeking to avoid constant labor strife as one union contract and then another expired, had agreed to the peace plan.

But before this could be done, 15 union contracts had to be renegotiated; agreements had to be reached on wage increases, and other new provisions for all of them.

### Amazing enough

That it was done at all was amazing enough. But it was done in only 16 days of negotiations.

The major credit goes to a brilliant mediator named Sam Kagel and to Louis Goldblatt, the equally brilliant secretary — treasurer of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Goldblatt, whose union represents some newspaper employees

in Hawaii, had come to the unions' joint strike committee with the plan. He saw it as the way to end the labor-management scarping that began with the merger of The Chronicle and The Examiner into the Printing Company in September, 1965.

But, most important, it was the way to shore-up the unity of the unions in a strike that, until Gold-

**Gov. Reagan answers The Bay Guardian disclosure in its last issue that the utilities got their own man appointed to California's powerful PUC.** — page 6

blatt moved in, was a battle of only one union, the Mailers, for a new contract.

Unions discussed the plan for nearly a week with Goldblatt and Kagel, chief arbitrator between the ILWU and the Pacific Maritime Association. Once the unions agreed, Kagel got agreement from the newspaper publishers.

Then the unions proposed to Mayor Alioto that he name Kagel as his mediator to conduct negotiations. Alioto agreed and, on Feb.

8, Kagel began around-the-clock sessions with union and publisher negotiators in the Clift Hotel.

The talks ended with agreements that were recommended unanimously by the unions' individual negotiating committees. Then came that anxious wait in the mayor's office. All 15 unions had to vote on the committee recommendations at membership meetings that Sunday. All had to ratify the agreement or there would be no settlement.

### One left

The unions met at different times throughout the day, starting at 10 a.m. By mid-afternoon, 14 had approved their new contracts by overwhelming votes. Just one union left — the Mailers, which had started it all.

The mailers began meeting at 3 p.m. and discussed it for 3-1/2 hours while others paced that red carpet. Then the word: 213 for ratification, only 10 against.

Despite the anxiety, the Mailers' vote didn't surprise those who were aware of the terms in the union's

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# 'The strike ends'

— continued from page 1

new contract. For the mailers won withdrawal of the Printing Company demands that prompted the strike — demands that would have weakened the union severely.

Among other things, the company had wanted to loosen the union's control over hiring and cut down the number of mailers it employs.

Additionally, the mailers won a new paid holiday — their birthday — and the liberalized vacation provisions they had sought. They will get four weeks vacation after five years' service immediately and four weeks after one year as of next January.

Like the other unions, the Mailers' contract was re-dated to go into effect immediately and expire on March 1, 1971 — a period in which there can be no strikes or lockouts.

The union also got the basic wage package granted other unions — a \$10 weekly raise now, \$10 in March, 1969, and \$12 in March, 1970.

The mailers got an additional \$7 a week raise retroactive to last March when their old contract expired, plus \$3.25 a week in health and welfare payments retroactive to December 1.

\$182 a week

This will bring the mailers' weekly pay to \$182 a week by the end of the new contract period. Among other unions, pay will range up to the \$241 that will be guaranteed reporters with at least six years experience.

Although the new agreement cancels pay raises previously scheduled for the future in the original contracts of those unions whose contracts had not expired, pre-

viously scheduled fringe benefit increases will go into effect as scheduled.

New benefits, including up to four weeks vacation after one year's service, new holidays and liberalized health and welfare provisions, can be added at any union's discretion. But the cost must be deducted from the new page package.

If this sounds like a union victory, it should. But thanks to the unusual nature of the settlement, it also is a management victory.

Both sides got what they wanted, and the way has been paved for them to fully concentrate, after more than 2-1/2 years, on providing the public with the kind of daily newspapers it needs.

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## GUARDIAN LISTINGS...

Two upcoming California Music Foundation events: ANDRE WATTS, pianist, at the Opera House, Saturday, March 2nd, 8:30; and JULIAN BREEM, classical guitarist, at the Curran Theater, Sunday, March 3rd, 3 p.m.

ENCOUNTER THEATRE: Becker's "Happy Days" Mar 7, 8, 9 and 14, 15, 16. Old St. Mary's Church, Grant and California (751-7707).

PLAYHOUSE: "Bedlam" by Broughton opens Mar. 1 (775-4426).

STANFORD REPERTORY: O'Casey's "Cock-a-Doodle Dandy" from Mar. 6 (321-2300).

S.F. STATE: "The Master Builder" Feb. 29, Mar. 1-2 (585-7174).

CURRAN: "Black Comedy" opens Mar. 5 (673-4400).

"Ghost Sonata" continues weekends at the God's Eye, "Three-penny Opera" is at The Interplayers, and "Waiting for Godot" will be performed in French at Veteran's Auditorium, one night only — Mar. 1.

(See back pages for reviews.)

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